

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GLYNCORRWG.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

F O R

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Dr. D.J. Davies,
Medical Officer of Health.

GLYNCORRWG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1950.

Chairman.

Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Glyn Williams, J.P. Glyncorrwg. Councillor F. Marchant, Cymmer.

Councillor I. Davies, Abergwynfi.	Councillor D. Williams, Abergwynfi.
" " A.D. Hunt, " "	" " J. Thomas, Glyncorrwg.
" " H. Field, J.P. " "	" " J.A. Evans, " "
" " D. John, " "	" " A. Leonard, " "
" " I. Price, " "	" " T. Williams, " "
" " H. Abraham, Cymmer.	Councillor Mrs. S. Phillips, Cymmer.
" " Wm. Lewis, " "	" Mrs. V.E. Howe "

General Purposes Committee.

Chairman - Councillor J. Thomas, Glyncorrwg.

Housing Committee Chairman - Councillor W. Lewis, Cymmer.

Finance Committee Chairman - Councillor W. Lewis, Cymmer.

Officials.

Clerk to the Council.....	Mr. T.D. Windsor Williams.
Surveyor and Engineer.....	Mr. T.J. Walker, A.R.I.C.S.
Assistant Surveyor and Engineer.....	Mr. N. Miles, B.Sc.(Civil Eng)
Assistant Surveyor and Engineer.....	Mr. G. Bidder.
Surveying Assistant.....	Mr. H. Thomas.
Engineer's Costs Assistant.....	Mr. P. Evans.
Engineer's Clerk.....	Mrs. Mary Jones.
Treasurer & Accountant & Rating & Valuation Officer.....	Mr. Llewelyn Morgan. A.I.M.T.A.
Medical Officer of Health.....	Dr. D.J. Davies, M.B.E., M.D. B.Sc., B.S., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector.....	Mr. John Tate, Cert. Royal San. Institute and San. Inspector's Exam. Joint Board, Meat Insp. Cert. Royal San. Institute.
Indoor Collector and Ledger Clerk.....	Mr. S. Fuge.
Housing Collector.....	Mr. R. Eckett.
" "	Mr. E. Hughes.
General Clerk	Mr. R.G. Dayson.
Junior Clerk	Miss Enid Isaac.

GLYNCORRWG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Glynccorrwg Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report on the public health of the area for the year 1950. It is prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Welsh Board of Health. I hope that it will be helpful and interesting.

Despite the heavy rainfall and the lack of sunshine, the health records, with one exception, of the community can be considered as satisfactory in comparison with previous years. The death rate was low. There were no serious outbreaks of infectious diseases. Fewer cases of tuberculosis were notified. Unfortunately the rates of infant deaths and still births were high. The birth rate of the area remained considerably higher than most areas in England and Wales.

There were a number of improvements of the health services of the area during the year. The Glamorgan County Council were able to expand the clinic services and the home helps service. The hospital services were improved by the opening of Tonna Hospital for the treatment of children and the provision of wards at Cefn Hirgoed Hospital for the treatment of tuberculous patients. The visit of the Mass Radiography Unit in August was appreciated. Many further improvements of the medical and health services of the area are possible and it is hoped they will be realised in the near future. They include the provision of an adequate dental service and a re-organised general practitioner service.

In the report, are details of the creditable achievements of the Council and its staff in housing, the safeguarding of the purity of food, milk and ice-cream and other matters concerning the prevention of disease in the community.

I wish to thank those who have helped me with the compilation of the report. Mr. Tate, the Sanitary Inspector, has kindly prepared the details of the sections on general information, housing, water supplies and hygiene of factories and food. The administrative staff of the Port Talbot and Glynccorrwg Health Division have tabulated the vital statistics.

Throughout the year, I was indebted to the members, officials and staff of the Council and the general practitioners of the area for their courtesy and assistance. The Divisional Health Office staff have undertaken in a loyal and efficient manner my clerical and statistical work.

Your obedient servant,
D.J. DAVIES.
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Prior to the formation of the Glyncoerrwg Local Board in 1893, the Glyncoerrwg Parish was administered by the Neath Sanitary Authority. The following year saw the coming into force of the Local Government Act of 1894, and under its provisions the Glyncoerrwg Urban District Council was formed. The Urban District covers an area of 13,925 acres.

For administrative purposes the Urban District is divided into three wards, namely the Abergwynfi, Cymmer and Glyncoerrwg wards. The Council Offices are situated at Cymmer which is the approximate centre of the area.

The most prominent physical features in the area are the deep valleys of the rivers Corrwg and Afan. These rivers have their sources near Glyncoerrwg and Abergwynfi respectively, and their confluence at Cymmer. The main river flows thence to the sea at Port Talbot down the Afan Valley through Duffryn Afan and Cynon Afan.

The banks of these rivers rise steeply and merge into the mountain slopes, consequently there are very few level sites in the valleys for housing sites and industrial development. The mountain sides and uplands were mainly used for sheep farming, but extensive afforestation is now being carried out by the Forestry Commission. The rainfall in the area is very high and has averaged 73 inches during the past ten years.

The mining of coal is the chief industrial activity carried out in the district, and it is understood that the National Coal Board has scheduled the area for development. Coals being mined include bituminous, dry steam and anthracite.

During 1948 a factory for manufacture of dress jewelry was completed at Cymmer. Approximately 400 persons, mostly females, are employed.

The growth and development of the area are shown by the population figures which are as follows:-

For the year 1901	the census population was	6,452
" " " 1911	" " "	" 8,689
" " " 1921	" " "	" 10,772
" " " 1931	" " "	" 10,208
" " " 1950	" estimated "	" 9,156

The rateable value of the area for the year ended 31st. December 1950, was as follows:-

	£.	s.	d.
General Rate Purposes	30,146.	0.	0.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	106.	0.	0.

The main sewer, which has its outfall in the sea at Port Talbot, is laid in the beds of the river Afan and its tributaries. Practically the whole of the houses in the area with the exception of a few outlying farms and dwellinghouses are connected to the main sewerage system.

The Council have their own refuse collection motor vehicles of an approved type. Collections are made on alternate days. The refuse is disposed of on tips in various parts of the district which are sited as far from dwelling houses as possible. Controlled methods of tipping are not, at present, being used.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In contrast to a general practitioner, who has to assess the health of the individual patient, a medical officer of health has to judge the state of health of the community. He bases his judgment on certain figures, called vital statistics, which are obtained from the registration of deaths, births and stillbirths and the notifications of tuberculosis and certain infectious diseases.

At present, he cannot present a complete picture as it is impossible to obtain figures of the prevalence of certain forms of ill-health, such as rheumatism and minor mental complaints, which cause so much unhappiness and loss of work. It is hoped that in due course the Ministry of National Insurance and the Regional Hospital Board will be able to provide reliable illness statistics.

The detailed statistical tables, required by the Welsh Board of Health, are given at the end of the report. In this section, a general explanatory review of the main statistics is given.

1. POPULATION.

The population of the Urban District was estimated by the Registrar General to be 9,156 for the mid-year 1950 as compared with 9,023 for the previous year.

2. BIRTHS.

There were 179 live births, 100 males and 79 females, during the year. 8 stillbirths were recorded. 4.47% of all live births were illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 19.55 per 1000 population as compared with 19.9 in 1949.

The following table is of interest:-

Number of live births at home in the area:-	108
Number of live births (Glyncorrwg U.D.C. mothers)	
in Neath General Hospital:-	63
Number of live births (Glyncorrwg U.D.C. mothers)	
in Maesteg Maternity Home	8

39.1% of all live births either occurred in a hospital or nursing home.

3. DEATHS.

The total number of deaths during 1950 was 88, comprising 55 males and 33 females. The death rates per thousand of the population in recent years are as follows:-

1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
9.61	11.2	11.9	14.9	11.8	12.3	11.3	11.3

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales during 1950 was 11.6.

The main causes of death were diseases of the heart and blood vessels, cancer, bronchitis and accidents.

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

13 infants, under one year of age, died during the year. The infant mortality rate - number of deaths of infants under one year per 1000 live births - was 72.63. The figure for the whole of England and Wales was 29.8. Comparisons of the annual rates are as follows:-

1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
72.63	56	74	56	71	64	56	45

The infant mortality rate in the area has continued, in recent years, to be high as compared with other areas of the country. It is hoped that the provision of a premature baby unit at Neath General Hospital, the recent improvements in the home nursing of the premature babies at home, the additional clinic sessions and the improvements in housing will result in a reduction of this loss of infant lives.

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is pleasing to report that, during 1950, there were no deaths of mothers due to pregnancy or childbirth.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE URBAN AREA.

In this section, a brief general description of the services will be made. Full details of the administration and committees which are responsible for the local organisation of the health services are not included.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

The Urban District Council is not responsible for the planning or administration but it is very pleasing to note that members do take an interest in these matters. Their importance needs no emphasis. Every citizen pays, on an average, approximately nine pounds per year, either by direct or indirect taxation, for this service. For this expenditure, one has the right to expect a first class health service. There are, however, difficulties, such as a shortage of dentists and the need to postpone the construction of health centres, which cannot be surmounted in a few years.

During 1950, there were a number of limited local improvements in the service. These are described in the following paragraphs.

1. HOSPITALS.

The administration of the local hospital services is the responsibility of the Mid Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee - office at 8, Wind Street, Neath. The Consultant and Specialist Services are organised by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board whose central office is at Cathays Park, Cardiff.

(i) MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PATIENTS.

Neath General Hospital, a fully equipped hospital, provided treatment for the majority of the above patients from the area. A limited proportion were treated at Swansea General Hospital and Morriston Hospital.

The re-opening of Tonna Hospital, Neath as a childrens' hospital in April 1950 improved the local hospital facilities. Children from this area can now have their tonsils and adenoids removed at this hospital and by the end of 1950, there was a considerable reduction of the waiting list.

(ii) MATERNITY PATIENTS.

The majority of patients, requiring a hospital confinement, were admitted to Neath General Hospital.

The booking of the non-emergency maternity beds was arranged by the Port Talbot and Glynecorrgw Health Division. This scheme was a success as the domestic, medical and housing problems of each applicant could be considered.

(iii) INFECTIOUS PATIENTS.

Such patients, whose doctors requested hospital treatment, were admitted either to Port Talbot, Macsteg or Bridgend Isolation Hospitals. The decline in recent years of diphtheria has fortunately lessened the need for isolation hospital beds.

(iv) TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.

With the opening of a number of wards for tuberculous patients at Cefn Hirgoed Hospital, Bridgend, there was a reduction of the waiting period for hospital or sanatorium treatment. Further hospital and sanatorium beds are however still required for such patients.

(v) MENTAL (PSYCHIATRIC) PATIENTS.

Mental illness is common. There are all degrees of such illness, from the mild, which often responds to treatment by the family doctor, to the more severe which necessitates treatment at a mental hospital.

Out-patient facilities for this area were provided at Neath General Hospital. Most in-patients were treated at the Morgannwg Mental Hospital, Bridgend.

In recent years, the treatment of mental patients has advanced considerably and a moderate proportion of cures are obtained.

2. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

This clinic is situated at the Station Approach, Port Talbot.

3. GENERAL PRACTITIONER, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

These services are controlled locally by the Glamorgan Executive Council whose office is at 47, Park Place, Cardiff. There are three general practitioners in the urban area. The dental, pharmaceutical and ophthalmic services are extremely limited. Most adults receive their dental treatment at Maesteg or Neath.

4. ANCILLARY HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL.

The majority of these services are under the day to day control of the Port Talbot and Glyncoerrwg Divisional Health Committee whose office is at Park House, Theodore Road, Port Talbot. They include the home nursing, health visiting and midwifery services, the ante-natal and infant welfare clinics and the home helps service.

The ambulance service in the area is under the direct control of the Glamorgan County Council. The local sub-station is at Neath.

. SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

This service is not part of the National Health Service. It is controlled by the Glamorgan County Council and the local office is at Park House, Port Talbot. All school children in certain age groups were medically examined and arrangements for eye and orthopaedic treatment were made.

It was possible to re-open the school dental clinics at Cymmer and Blaengwynfi on the 11th. May 1950. Until the end of the year, a limited school dental service was maintained in the area.

. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During 1950, all bacteriological examinations for the area were undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

H O U S I N G.

During the year, 85 new houses were completed by the Council and occupied. Two police houses were erected in Cymmer by the Glamorgan County Council.

Work has commenced on the roads and sewers preparatory to the erection of a further 86 "Cornish" type houses on the Croeserw Site.

Since the end of the war, 287 dwellings have been built by your authority, but the demand for new houses continues unabated.

The following table, compiled by the Treasurer's department, indicates the extent of this demand:-

Number of applicants who are now living in apartments.	- 357
Number of applicants who are householders	- 239
Number of applicants who are already tenants of Council houses.	- 74
Number of applicants who are not resident in the Glyncorrwg Urban District	- <u>97</u>
Total number of applicants.	<u>767</u>

The number of applicants from each ward, of persons resident in the Glyncorrwg Urban District, is as follows:-

Abergwynfi Ward	- 172
Cymmer Ward	- 334
Glyncorrwg Ward	- 164

During the year, six houses at Hendregarreg, Glyncorrwg, were demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. These dwellings were of timber construction and were over 70 years old. Owing to general disrepair and decay they were quite unfit for human habitation, and could not be repaired at reasonable cost.

Action was also taken during the year under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to secure the demolition of the terrace of vacant houses, 17 to 30 Nantybar Street, Abercragan.

These buildings had become very unsafe due to fractured walls and to the removal by unauthorised persons of the roof timbers.

It would be pleasant to be able to report an easing of the difficulties of obtaining sufficient materials and labour to carry out repairs by owners of dwelling houses in the area. Unfortunately such is not the case, and the Sanitary Inspector found it necessary in nineteen instances to take proceedings in a Magistrates' Court to obtain the minimum of necessary repairs.

The following housing details are of interest:-

1.	Number of new dwelling houses erected during the year:-	
	(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	87
	(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:-	
	(i) Built by the Local Authority.....	85
	(ii) Built by other bodies or persons.....	2
2.	Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.	
	1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.....	175
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	604
	2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925.....	0
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	0
	3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	20
	4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	140
3.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	46
4.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
	A. Proceedings under Sections 9,10 & 16 of Housing Act, 1936 -	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs.....	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:	
	(a) By Owners.....	0
	(b) By Local Authority.....	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts -

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 92
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice:
- (a) By Owners..... 76
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... 0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 Housing Act, 1936 -

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 6
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order..... 6

D. Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936 -

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... 0
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... 0

5. Housing Act, 1936 -- Part IV. -- Overcrowding:-

- (a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... } Information not available.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... }
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... }
- (b) - Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... 4
- (c) - (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 2
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases... 14
- (d) - Number of cases in which dwellings have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.... 0

6. Bed Bug Infestation: the sanitary inspector's services are available for all householders. Whenever there is any suspicion, he inspects the bedding and furniture of incoming tenants of council houses.

The disinfection is by means of the insecticide known as D.D.T. either in liquid or powder form.

Number of council houses disinfected..... 3

" " other " " " 4

7. There are no common lodging houses, camp sites or inhabited tents, vans and sheds in the area.

W A T E R S U P P L I E S .

An elementary need of a civilised community is an ample and pure water supply. No effort should be spared to ensure the purity of a public water supply.

The main sources of water supply in the area are as follows:-

1. High Level Tank, Glyncorrwg. This water is taken from the stream Nantyrallor which has its source and gathering ground on the slopes of Mynydd Ynyscorrwg. This tank supplies the village of Glyncorrwg.
2. Low Level Tank, Glyncorrwg. The gathering ground of the stream Nantygroes which supplies this tank is also on the western slopes of Mynydd Ynyscorrwg. Abercregan and the north side of Cymmer are supplied from this source.
3. Gwynfi Reservoir, Blaengwynfi. Water from the Gwynfi reservoir is impounded from the Gwynfi brook, which has its source and gathering ground on Mynydd Abergwynfi. It supplies the south side of Cymmer, including the Croeserw Housing Estate, and the villages of Duffryn Rhondda and Cynonville.
4. East Level Waterworks, Abergwynfi. This is an underground source of supply taken from the stream which issues from the mouth of the old and disused colliery working known as East Level. The needs of the whole of Abergwynfi and Blaengwynfi are met from this source of supply.

The seven houses in Pforchlas, Abercregan, are supplied from a spring about 70 yards to the north west on rising ground. A small concrete tank is installed and the water conveyed to a stand pipe in the middle of the terrace.

Cwmcas houses, fourteen in number, have a private piped supply to each house from a concrete tank on rising ground at the rear. This tank is also supplied from an adjacent spring.

About half the farms in the area take their supplies from nearby springs. The remainder are connected to the Council's mains.

A chlorinating plant has been installed for each of the four main sources of supply.

Rainfall was heavy during the spring and summer months and no difficulty was experienced in maintaining adequate supplies of water to all parts of the area.

During the period under review, improved settling tank arrangements were provided at the Gwynfi reservoir. This reduced the work imposed on the filter beds. Cleansing of the filter beds and replenishment with sand were also undertaken.

Twenty-six samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination; twenty-one were satisfactory and five were just outside the limits for satisfactory results.

Owing to the plumbo-solvent character of the water supplies in the area, all service pipes conveying water for domestic consumption are of galvanised wrought iron.

Seven dwelling houses with a total population of 34 were supplied from public water mains by means of standpipes. 2334 dwelling houses with an estimated population of 9,050 were supplied from public water mains direct to the houses.

HYGIENE OF FACTORIES.

The supervision of factories is carried out partly by Government Home Office Factory Inspectors and partly by officers of the Local Authority.

Local Authorities are responsible for administering the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories, and the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories where mechanical power is not used.

District Councils are also responsible for securing adequate precautions against danger from fire in all factories.

Factories Act, 1937.Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health - 1950
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	No. on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	31	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	13	47	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	3	-	-
Total	23	81	3	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	<u>Number of Cases in which</u> <u>Defects were found.</u>		<u>Referred.</u>		<u>Number of</u> <u>cases in</u> <u>which pros-</u> <u>ecutions were</u> <u>instituted.</u>
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>To H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-	-

Outworkers.

3. There were 24 outworkers in the August list required by Section 110, Factories Act, 1937. No action was necessary to be taken under Section 110 and 111 of the Act.

HYGIENE OF FOOD.

We are today witnessing the development of a national drive to ensure the safe handling of food.

Visitors to this country have often expressed surprise at seeing food exposed for sale in a way which would not be tolerated in their own countries.

Some manufacturers, it is true, take great care to prevent contamination, particularly of perishable goods, but this is not always the case in places where food is prepared or sold.

The adoption by the Council of the Model Bye-laws, Series No. 1 on the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in Open Air, provides much needed additional control over food hygiene. Their general application will undoubtedly lead to an improved standard of food handling and storage.

A copy of the new bye-laws has been given free to every occupier of food premises in the area. Additional copies can be obtained from the Sanitary Inspector at a cost of sixpence each.

When distributing the bye-laws the Sanitary Inspector took the opportunity of giving the person in charge of the food premises a brief outline of the new requirements. In nearly every case a ready desire to co-operate was expressed.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

1. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

During the year 237 visits of inspection were paid to premises where food was prepared, stored and sold. Six notices were served under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Three of the notices required limewashing of walls and ceilings of warehouse rooms. One notice required walls of meat storage room to be cement rendered to a height of five feet.

Two notices dealt with defective drains and one required defective plastering on walls and ceilings of warehouse rooms to be remedied.

All the notices resulted in satisfactory compliance.

The following articles of food, which were found to be diseased, unwholesome or unsound, were surrendered and destroyed, or otherwise disposed of:-

Beef	-	430	lbs
Ox tails	-	30	"
Poultry	-	70	"
Bacon	-	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Fish	-	28	"
Dried milk	-	9	"
Mixed sweets	-	56	"
Cake flour	-	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Luncheon meats etc.	-	66	tins
Salmon, Pilchards, etc.	-	8	"
Fish cake rolls	-	88	"
Savory rolls	-	35	"
Fruit	-	73	"
Vegetables	-	179	"
Baked beans	-	10	"
Condensed milk	-	10	"
Evaporated "	-	54	"
Soups	-	96	"
Dried Egg	-	2	"
Infants Food	-	29	"
Condiments	-	140	"
Chocolate spread	-	36	packets
Chocolate cup	-	161	"
Potato crisps	-	181	"
Gravy salt	-	31	tins
Treacle pudding	-	1	"
Pickles	-	1	jar
Rusks	-	3	packets.

The number and classification of premises in the urban area used for the preparation of food for sale are given below:-

Fried Fish and Chip Shops.	-	9
Butchers making Sausages, Faggots etc	-	5
Ice-cream makers.	-	3
Colliery and Factory Canteens.	-	6
School Canteens.	-	6
Cafes.	-	6

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the area.

There are five butchers' shops. These shops are well lighted and ventilated and good standards of cleanliness are maintained. All have refrigerators. Adequate hand washing facilities are provided in each of the premises.

Much of the meat consumed in the area is sold from motor vans, and the regulations in respect to these are strictly enforced.

There are five bakehouses in use in the area situated as follows:-

Abergwynfi - 2 Cymmer - 2 Glyncoirwg - 1

The total number of persons employed in these bakehouses does not exceed twenty. Regular deliveries of bread are also made in the area by large outside firms. It was found necessary in two instances to serve notices requiring bakehouses to be limewashed. A leaking roof and a defective drain were also the subjects of notices.

2. ICE-CREAM.

During recent years the consumption of ice-cream in the area has increased enormously.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream in the Glyncoirwg Urban District has risen since 1948 from 7 to 31.

It may now be claimed that ice-cream is an important article of food, particularly for children.

Twenty-eight premises are registered in the area for the sale and storage only of ice-cream.

Twenty-nine samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and were subjected to analysis and the methylene blue reduction test for bacterial growth at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Results are as follows:-

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number of	Samples	attaining	Provisional	Grade	1	=	20
"	"	"	"	"	2	=	3
"	"	"	"	"	3	=	5
"	"	"	"	"	4	=	1
						Total	= 29
Grade 1	is provisionally interpreted as						"Satisfactory"
" 2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"Fair"
" 3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"Unsatisfactory"
" 4	"	"	"	"	"	"	"Very unsatisfactory"

Following the receipt of the fair and unsatisfactory samples, an effort was made to trace the method of contamination.

Results of Analyses.
Fats.

Number of samples with	3% w/w and under	-	4
" " " "	over 3% w/w	-	19

3. MILK.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, the Milk (Special Designation) Act, 1949, and the Regulations made thereunder came into operation on the 1st. October, 1949.

These enactments implement the policy defined by the Government in July, 1943, in the White Paper "Measures to Improve the Quality of the Nations Milk Supply".

Broadly speaking the supervision of milk production on the farm becomes the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, and local authorities retain the duty of controlling the distribution and sale of milk.

Although local authorities cease to be responsible for the supervision of milk production on dairy farms, it is desirable that close co-operation should be maintained between the Ministry of Agriculture Officers and Sanitary Officers of the Local Authorities as the local authority still retain duties at farms in connection with building construction, water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal.

Part V11. of the new Milk and Dairies Regulations, containing provisions with regard to the infection of milk is also administered by local authorities, whether at dairy farms or other dairy premises.

The following table gives the number and classification of registered persons engaged and registered premises used in the production, sale and storage of milk:-

Cowkeepers	-	9
Retail purveyors of milk	-	18
Milk shops where milk sold in sealed bottles	-	6
Farms other premises used as dairies	-	13

Three retailers were licensed to sell pasteurised milk during the year.

Seven samples of milk produced by registered cowkeepers within the Glyncorrwg Urban District were examined during the year for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All the samples proved to be negative.

During 1950, sixteen samples of ungraded milk and six samples of pasteurised milk were taken by the Sanitary Inspector from retailers of milk in the area, and taken to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

The ungraded milk is subjected to the methylene-blue test. This test is a simple and practical method of finding the degree of bacterial cleanliness of a sample of milk.

The basis of the test is that the dye in methylene-blue is decolourised by bacterial growth.

The sample is regarded as satisfactory, if, in summer the dye is not decolourised in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours and in winter in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

It is stressed, however, that the bacterial quality of the milk should not be assessed on the basis of a single sample.

The pasteurised milk has to satisfy a methylene-blue test and a phosphatase test.

The phosphatase test is based on the fact that the enzyme phosphatase is destroyed by efficient legal pasteurisation. The test is deemed to be satisfied by pasteurised milk which gives a reading of 2.3 Lovibond blue units or less.

Six of the ungraded milk samples were of milk produced on farms within the Glyncorrwg Urban District and ten were of ungraded milk produced outside the area.

All the samples of ungraded milk attained a satisfactory standard.

There were six samples taken during the year of pasteurised milk. All attained the required standard.

4. RODENT CONTROL.

The officer appointed to supervise the execution and enforcement of this work in the Glyncorrwg Urban District is the Sanitary Inspector - Mr. John Tate.

The sewerman acts as a part-time rodent operative.

Poisoning was the form of rodent control used by the operative during the year, and the method of application was as recommended by the Infestation Division, Ministry of Agriculture.

Infested premises are pre-baited with biscuit meal or stale bread crumbs for two or three days. On the third or fourth day when the rats are readily consuming the pre-bait, a poison is mixed with the bait. Poisons used are zinc phosphide, arsenic and barium carbonate.

The Council's sewer manholes are poison baited twice a year.

From the amount of poison bait taken it is possible to make an estimate of the number of rats and mice destroyed.

The following table gives a summary of the results achieved.

Ward	Classification of premises etc. treated.	Number of premises and manholes treated.	Number of Baiting Points.	Estimated number of Rats destroyed.
Abergwynfi.	Business Premises	11	47	33
"	Dwelling Houses	1	4	2
"	Council Premises	2	7	3
"	Sewer Manholes	145	145	91
"	Refuse tips	2	14	11
"	River banks	-	27	42
"	Schools	1	8	7
Cymmer.	Business Premises	5	37	21
"	Dwelling Houses	3	12	8
"	Council Premises	2	7	1
"	Sewer Manholes	220	220	132
"	Refuse Tips	2	15	4
"	River Banks	-	31	23
"	Schools	2	18	11
Glyncorrwg.	Business Premises	11	45	17
"	Dwelling Houses	2	9	3
"	Council Premises	1	4	-
"	Sewer Manholes	132	132	88
"	River Banks	-	122	112
"	Refuse Tips	1	9	5
Total		543	913	614

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Order, Mr. John Tate, the Sanitary Inspector, has, by inspection of the area, to keep himself informed of the sanitary circumstances of the district and in respect of nuisances that require abatement. Under other Acts, Regulations and Orders, he has a variety of other duties.

A summary of his inspections and visits during 1950 is as follows:-

<u>GENERAL DISTRICT INSPECTIONS:-</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Abergwynfi and Blaengwynfi.....	17
Cymmer.....	11
Duffryn Rhondda and Cynonville.....	6
Glyncorrwg.....	10
<u>HOUSING AND BUILDING INSPECTIONS:-</u>	
Dwelling Houses in respect of defects and nuisances due to dis-repair.....	175
Re-visits to dwelling houses - as above.....	429
Defective and new drains.....	39
Cinemas and Halls.....	11
Dangerous and dilapidated buildings and structures..	17
Stables.....	2
Piggeries.....	11
<u>HYGIENE OF FOOD INSPECTIONS:-</u>	
Dairies, and milk shops.....	45
Butchers' shops, fish shops, grocery stores and food preparation places.....	237
<u>FACTORY INSPECTIONS.....</u>	81
<u>INSPECTIONS UNDER SHOPS ACT 1934.....</u>	49
<u>PEST CONTROL INSPECTIONS</u>	
Rodent Control.....	43
Bed Bug infestation.....	14
<u>MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.</u>	
Miscellaneous nuisances.....	44
Defective sewers.....	4
Water works and water supply.....	29
Infectious disease and disinfections.....	53
Total number of inspections.....	<u>1323</u>

Action taken in cases of breaches of Acts, Orders and Regulations discovered during inspections is summarised as follows:-

Subject of inspections.	Nature of breaches of Acts, Orders and Regulations.	No. of Informal Notices.	No. of Statutory Notices.	Number of Notices complied with.	
				Informal	Statutory
Dwelling Houses under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	Dampness, Disrepair, Defective paved areas, W.C's				
Dwelling Houses on complaint of a nuisance.	Drainage, etc.	140	92	46	87
Miscellaneous nuisances.	Dead Sheep, Deposits of Manure, Deposits of house refuse, etc.	8	4	4	4
Dairies and Milkshops.	Churns not cleansed before returning to wholesale producer. Name and address of distributor not on vehicle. Dairy premises requiring repair.	4	-	4	-
Dangerous or dilapidated buildings and Structures.	Buildings or Structures dilapidated or dangerous.	3	2	2	1
Butcher shops, Fish shops, Grocery and Provision Stores and places where food is prepared.	Removal of refuse, Cleansing and Linewashing required Provision of adequate washing facilities etc.	6	4	2	4
Factories, Work-shops and Work-places (including Bakehouses)	Cleansing and Lime-washing required. Defective drainage.	3	-	3	-
Pigstyes.	Cleansing and Lime-washing required.	4	-	4	-
Drains.	Defective & Choked.	11	4	7	4
Domestic Water Supplies.	Insufficient.	2	-	2	-
" "	Houses without water supply.	-	-	-	-
" "	Wastage.	7	4	3	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OR FEVERS.

To preface this section, I feel that it is best to repeat three paragraphs which were contained in the previous year's report.

One of the features of the last hundred years in this country has been the remarkable decline and in some instances the virtual disappearance of certain of the more severe infectious diseases. A century ago our towns and countryside were not infrequently ravaged by epidemics of cholera, smallpox, typhoid fever and even that dread louse borne disease known as typhus fever.

It was these pestilences which stimulated the government of the day to pass laws enforcing certain standards of sanitation and requiring local authorities to employ medical officers of health.

We cannot at present be complacent and regard our community as free from the danger of such fevers. Any lapse of preventive measures or some accident of circumstance can lead to an outbreak. The recent outbreak of smallpox at Brighton is an example.

In the urban area there were no serious outbreaks of fevers during the year. There were two cases of infantile paralysis, otherwise known as acute poliomyelitis. Both were children, aged two years and five years, and in both cases the disease developed in August. They were mild cases; both had no residual paralysis. There was no history of contact between the cases and no source of infection could be traced.

The following table shows the distribution of notified infectious diseases and tuberculosis in the different wards of the area:-

Disease.	Glyncorrwg.	Cymmer.	Abergwynfi	Total for 1950.	Total for 1949.
Scarlet Fever	11	9	-	20	20
Diphtheria	1	-	-	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1	1	2	-
Measles	-	46	-	46	219
Whooping Cough	-	3	-	3	26
Pneumonia	-	15	-	15	19
Erysipelas	-	1	-	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	1	1
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	2	6	5	13	17
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	1	1	2	4	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1950, there were 73 patients on the tuberculosis register for the area:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	23	9
Females	31	10

During the year 17 notifications of all forms of tuberculosis were received:-

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	9	2
Females	4	2

11 patients were admitted to sanatoria. There were 5 deaths due to tuberculosis.

The ages of the new cases during 1950 are contained in Table 4 at the end of the report.

From the 28th. to the 30th. August 1950, the Mass Radiography Unit of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board, at the invitation of the Glyncorrwg Urban District Council visited Cymmer. The Unit was accommodated at the Workmen's Hall. The response of the general public was satisfactory. The detailed findings were as follows:-

Total number of persons examined.....	1614
Total number found to be abnormal.....	179
Total number found to have definite pulmonary tuberculosis.....	Nil
Total number requiring further observation for pulmonary tuberculosis.....	15
Total number found to have other chest abnormalities.....	164

Of the latter group, the majority were miners with varying degrees of pneumoconiosis.

The Council wished the Unit also to visit Glyncorrwg and Blaengwynfi, but unfortunately the Welsh Regional Hospital Board would not agree. The latter organisation felt that Cymmer was a suitable centre for the whole area.

As in previous years, the prevention and care of tuberculosis received much attention. The following action was taken:-

1. Regular visits were made by the health visitors to the homes of all tuberculosis patients and careful attention given to the prevention of the spread of the disease - both in and outside the house.
2. A serious effort was made to ensure that contacts of the disease attended for examination at the chest clinic.
3. Parents were advised strongly by the health visitors and medical officer to give pasteurised or tuberculin tested milk to their children.
4. Child contacts in certain tuberculosis cases were referred to the Chest Physician for consideration of B.C.G. immunisation against the disease. The latter procedure is still in the experimental stage in this country though very good results are claimed on the Continent of Europe.
5. The Hospital Management Committee provided extra accommodation for tuberculous patients at Cefn Hirgoed Hospital. This action reduced the local waiting list for hospital and sanatorium treatment.

TABLE 1.SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR 1950.

These statistics have been confirmed by the Registrar General.

<u>Live Births:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	171	96	75
Illegitimate	8	4	4

Birth-rate per 1,000 population -- 19.55

<u>Still-Births:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	8	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births -- 43

<u>Deaths:-</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
	88	55	33

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population -- 9.61

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	72.63
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births.....	64.33
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	3
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	3

TABLE 2.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1950.
Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 O.B.'s and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Res- ident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County	Glyncoorwg Urban District Council.
Rates per 1,000 Home Population:-					
<u>Births</u>					
Live Births	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8	19.55
Still Births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36	.87
<u>Deaths</u>					
All Causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8	9.61
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39	0.55
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.22
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48	0.22
<u>Notifications (Corrected)</u>					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23	2.18
Whooping cough	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21	0.33
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.11
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00
Measles	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57	5.02
Pneumonia	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50	1.64
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.11
Non-paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.11
Food poisoning	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25	0.00

TABLE 2 (Continued)

	England and Wales	126 C.'B's and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Res- ident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. Glyncorrwg County Urban District Council.
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Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-

Deaths

All causes under 1 year of age	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	26.3	72.63
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0	

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:-

Notifications (Corrected)

Puerperal fever and pyrexia	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03	5.3
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Maternal Mortality in ENGLAND AND WALES.

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
651. Abortion with sepsis	0.09	7
650,652. Other abortion	0.05	4
640-649, 670-678. Complication of pregnancy and delivery	0.54	
681. Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium	0.03	
680,682-689. Other complications of the puerperium	0.15	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

TABLE 3.ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF INFANTS' DEATHS DURING 1950.

NEONATAL DEATHS : 10 : NEONATAL DEATH RATE : 55.87 per thousand
live births.

	<u>1st. 24 hours of</u> <u>life</u>	<u>One day - one</u> <u>month.</u>
Prematurity.....	-	3
Inanition.....	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage(Birth Injury)	1	1
Haemorrhagic disease of new born...	-	1
Congenital Malformations.....	-	1
Inattention at birth.....	1	-
Broncho-pneumonia and Enteritis....	-	1

DEATHS DURING ONE MONTH TO ONE YEAR OF AGE : 3

Enteritis.....	1
Bronchitis.....	1
Broncho-Pneumonia.....	1

TABLE 4.
TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during 1950:-

	<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY.</u>	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-
Over 1 year and under 5 years.	-	-	1	1
Over 5 years and under 10 years.	-	-	-	-
Over 10 years and under 15 years.	-	-	-	-
Over 15 years and under 20 years.	3	4	-	-
Over 20 years and under 25 years.	1	-	1	-
Over 25 years and under 35 years.	2	-	-	-
Over 35 years and under 45 years.	-	-	-	1
Over 45 years and under 55 years.	1	-	-	-
Over 55 years and under 65 years.	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years.	2	-	-	-
Totals	9	4	2	2

TABLE 5.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1950.

(as recorded by Registrar General)

		Males.	Females.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory.....	3	1
2.	Tuberculosis, Non-Respiratory.....	0	1
3.	Syphilitic Disease.....	0	0
4.	Diphtheria.....	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough.....	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	0
8.	Measles.....	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, Bronchus.....	0	0
12.	Malignant neoplasm, Breast.....	0	0
13.	Malignant neoplasm, Uterus.....	0	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	1	0
15.	Leukaemia, leukaemia.....	0	0
16.	Diabetes.....	3	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	3	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina.....	3	3
19.	Hypertension, with heart disease.....	1	0
20.	Other heart disease.....	11	7
21.	Other circulatory disease.....	2	1
22.	Influenza.....	1	1
23.	Pneumonia.....	0	2
24.	Bronchitis.....	4	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.....	4	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	0	0
27.	Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea.....	2	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations.....	0	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	8	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.....	0	0
34.	All other accidents.....	6	1
35.	Suicide.....	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war.....	0	0
All causes.....		55	33

